

Gull Banding Notes at Utah Lake

The California gull, *Larus Californicus* Lawrence was first banded at Rock Island in Utah Lake on June 14, 1940. The banding party consisted of Reed Biddulph, Dr. W. B. Hales, Dr. D. E. Beck, James Bee, Cluff Hopla, Blair Carlson, Dwight Taylor, Vasco Jordan Tanner, and Dr. Vasco M. Tanner. Banding began at 7:00 A. M. and by 11:50 A. M. 1,000 gulls had been banded with three bands; a yellow band over a red one on the right leg and an aluminum Biological Survey band on the left leg. The survey bands were numbered 680,001 to 681,000.

This banding was undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining something about the migratory movements of the gulls. We are especially anxious to learn if the birds return to this island and if they select the territory on the island in which they were reared.

At this writing we have received reports from the Fish and Wildlife Service and Mrs. Grace Sargent, chairman of Pacific Gull Project on twenty-seven of the banded gulls. One no. 680,997 was found dead by W. R. Creer on July 1, 1940 at Spanish Fork, Utah; while seventeen were found dead by the writer and Dr. Beck on Rock Island on July 16, 1940. Apparently many of these were injured by the adult gulls at the time of banding. On July 29, 1940 one was found sick and unable to fly by Miss Della Barney at Spanish Fork; one was caught near Fallen, Nevada on July 30 by Edwin Harrigan; one was found dead by Elizabeth Aureiter at Wecoma Beach, near Ocean Lake, Oregon on August 3; one was found injured and killed by George Hummer at Santa Cruz, California, on August 4. Buster Hammond of Newport, Oregon found one dead on August 24; and Mr. V. T. Wilson on August 26 found one dead on the Bear River Refuge. Two different gulls were sighted at La Jolla, California by Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hutchinson; one on February 2, 1941 and the other one on February 24. Mr. P. Stoddard saw one on February 8, on the University of California Campus at Los Angeles.

For the second year 1,000 gulls were banded on Rock Island on June 17, 1941. The members of the party this year were Ted Johnson, Harry Chandler, E. C. Draper, Dr. D. E. Beck, J. C. Bement, Jordan Tanner, Carmela Tanner, and Dr. Vasco M. Tanner. Three bands a red, then aluminum survey band and finally a yellow one were put on the left leg. The aluminum bands were numbered 649,001 to 650,000.

After banding we estimated that one out of every fifteen or sixteen of the young gulls was banded. There are about ten to twelve thousand nests on the island this year and barring fatality, due to cold stormy weather, the infertility of the eggs, and starvation, there will be at least fifteen to sixteen thousand young gulls reach flight maturity. Dr. Beck has made a rather careful study of the gulls since they came to the island last spring and we believe there are at least twenty-four to twenty-five thousand adult gulls in the colony.

We are surprised at being unable to find any of the 1940 banded gulls in the colony. Considerable care and time has been spent in observing the gulls on the island and in the fields this spring, but as yet we have failed to find any banded birds.—V.M.T.